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October 9, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: Small Telephone Companies Tariff Filings Regarding Reclassification of Pay Telephone Service as Required by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Docket 96-128, TRA Docket No. 97-01181

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed please find the original and thirteen (13) copies of the Request of Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies for Extension of Time to File Comments and Rate Proposals as Directed by Notice of Filing Dated September 26, 2002, for filing in the above-referenced docket. I have also enclosed an additional copy of the Request, which I would appreciate your stamping as "filed," and returning to me by way of our courier.

Should you have any questions with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours



R. Dale Grimes

RDG/gci

Enclosures

cc: Guy M. Hicks, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
James B. Wright, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
Timothy C. Phillips, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
Henry M. Walker, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
Guilford F. Thornton, Jr., Esq. (w/ enclosure)
J. Richard Collier, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
Jon Hastings, Esq. (w/ enclosure)
Mr. Bruce H. Mottern (w/ enclosure)

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

IN RE:

**SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANIES
TARIFF FILINGS REGARDING
RECLASSIFICATION OF PAY TELEPHONE
SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)
DOCKET 96-128**

Docket No. 97-01181

**REQUEST OF COALITION OF TENNESSEE SMALL LOCAL EXCHANGE
COMPANIES FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS AND RATE
PROPOSALS AS DIRECTED BY NOTICE OF FILING DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2002**

The Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies (the "Coalition"), consisting of the following companies: (1) Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc.; (2) the Century Tel, Inc. Companies in Tennessee consisting of (a) Century Tel of Adamsville, Inc.; (b) Century Tel of Claiborne, Inc.; and (c) Century Tel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.; (3) Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.; (4) the TDS Telecom Companies in Tennessee consisting of (a) Concord Telephone Exchange, Inc.; (b) Humphreys County Telephone Company; (c) Tellico Telephone Company, Inc.; and (d) Tennessee Telephone Company; (5) the Telephone Electronics Corp. ("TEC") Companies in Tennessee consisting of (a) Crockett Telephone Company, Inc.; (b) Peoples Telephone Company, Inc.; and (c) West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc. and (6) United Telephone Company, Inc., respectfully requests an extension of time of twenty (20) days to file comments and rate proposals for the provisioning of payphone access services to payphone service providers as directed by Notice of Filing dated September 26, 2002, filed by the Pre-Hearing Officer, Director Pat Miller.

The Notice of Filing reconvenes this docket after the conclusion of the companion docket involving the pay telephone service rates of the larger incumbent local exchange carriers in


Tennessee, Docket No. 97-00409. This is the first activity in this docket since a round of comments was filed by the parties in the spring of 2001. The Notice of Filing set a deadline of October 14, 2002, for the parties to file comments and rate proposals, including supporting justification for rates, for payphone access services. It also established October 24, 2002, for any party to file responses to the comments and rate proposals of the Coalition members.

The Coalition members need additional time to review the relevant portions of the file in Docket No. 97-00409, including the final Order issued in that docket, and to properly evaluate the filings and rates approved therein. Due to company staff resource limitations, the Coalition members estimate that an extension of twenty (20) days will be necessary to conduct this review and to prepare comments, rate proposals, and supporting justifications for filing with the Authority. The Coalition has no objection to a similar extension of the time for any party to file responses.

The extension is necessary to give the Coalition members adequate time and a fair opportunity to make the necessary filings with the Authority. No party will suffer prejudice as a result of this brief extension of time.

Accordingly, the Coalition members respectfully request an extension of time of twenty (20) days to file their comments, rate proposals, and supporting justifications.

Respectfully submitted,


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*Attorneys for the Coalition of Tennessee
Small Local Exchange Companies*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing Request of Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies for Extension of Time to File Comments and Rate Proposals as Directed by Notice of Filing Dated September 26, 2002, was served on the following, via United States mail, postage prepaid, this the 9th day of October, 2002:

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Nashville, Tennessee 37201-3300

James B. Wright, Esq.
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Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-5900

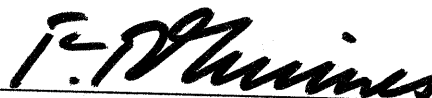
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